



## **Vietnam Veteran's Welcome Home Ceremony**

The Army at Historic Fort Sam Houston will host a Vietnam Veteran 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Welcome Home Ceremony, parade, and reception, November 7, 2012, from 4 to 7 p.m. The ceremony will be held on Staff Post Field on Fort Sam Houston from 4 to 5 p.m. and will be followed by a reception for Vietnam Veterans and their Families in the Quadrangle from 5 to 7 p.m.

This ceremony and reception are a long-overdue opportunity to combine the efforts of the Army at Fort Sam Houston, our fellow service components, and the local community to welcome home Vietnam War Veterans and their Families regardless of the branch of the military in which they served. This initiative will honor not only those who served during this time, but also honor those who lost their lives in this war, those who were held as Prisoners of War, and those still unaccounted for.

The Army team at Fort Sam Houston has put together an advisory board of prominent community members to assist us in making this long -overdue celebration the very best it can be. The Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran Advisory- Board consists of:

- Senior military leaders
- City of San Antonio departments
- Greater San Antonio Area Chamber of Commerce
- Non-profit organizations
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Local business leaders and volunteers

Our Guest of Honor for the ceremony is Medal of Honor recipient, Major General Patrick Brady (USA, Retired) also a Vietnam-Era veteran.

The official ceremony will incorporate military and civilian leaders, along with military units and City of San Antonio personnel and equipment into a military-style ceremony complete with troops, music, Police honor guards, and fanfare. The grounds will have static displays of Vietnam era equipment, welcome home signs and banners, yellow ribbons, and helicopter flyovers all meant to offer a celebratory environment to finally welcome these heroes home the right way.

In addition to the ceremonial fanfare, we are also presenting the City of San Antonio a Vietnam time capsule. Between now and the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, the Army at Fort Sam Houston is collecting memorabilia and filming testimonials of Vietnam Veterans to include in this time capsule for future generations to learn from and remember.

Immediately following the ceremony on Staff Post Field, guests will be asked to line the "Corridor of Thanks" as the Vietnam Veterans walk into the historic Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle. The procession will have signs, music, and a "ticker-tape" type atmosphere. Inside the Quadrangle the Veterans will be celebrated again at a reception complete with food, community leaders, well-wishers, and Vietnam era music.